Residence of the Indian Ambassador to UNO at Geneva

*33. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government bought a large property in Geneva for about six million francs (approximately rupees 12 crores) in August 1989 for the residence of Indian Ambassador;

(b) if so, whether it has ever been occupied by any Indian Ambassador since then and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that it is a waste of money when the country is facing financial crisis;

(d) if so, whether Government are considering to sell this house to reclaim the huge amount of sunken precious foreign exchange; and

(e) if so, what are the plans of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (e) Government acquired a property at 6 Rue de Pregny in Geneva costing Swiss France 6.3 million equivalent to Indian Rupees 6.19 crores in August 1989, intended to be used for relocating from rented premises the Permanent Mission of India in Geneva. At the time of acquiring this property, Government had taken into consideration the location of other Diplomatic Offices representing the UN, ILO, WHO, ITU, WIPO, the Red Cross and Diplomatic Missions of the USA, the then USSR and Kuwait and expected that necessary permission for using this property as Diplomatic Mission would be forthcoming.

The Government have approached the local Geneva Canton authorities and the Swiss Federal Government in Berne at various levels but have not received the necessary permission for use of the property as office premises. The alternative option of occupying the property for the residence of the Permanent Representative of India to the UN Offices in Geneva was considered but it was found that this would require extensive modification and renovation which would have involved heavy expenditure. In view of this, the option of selling the property is under Government's consideration.

Bifurcation of the ONGC

*34. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has cleared a proposal for converting the statutory Oil and Natural Gas Commission into a public limited company; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the details of the new set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This will facilitate amongst other things greater flexibility to the organisation in raising resources from the capital market and easier structural adjustments in response to needs. The new set up will be a Board managed company registered under the Companies Act, 1956.

पुलिस द्वारा निर्दोष लोगों को परेशान किया जाना

*35. श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर :
श्री अनन्त राम जायसवाल :

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :